

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMLWCH.

## ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

-1951-

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

AMLWCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 9 5 1

---

Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor R.J. Jones

Vice-Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor J.R. Roberts

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor R.J. Jones

Members of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor O.T. Jones

Councillor H. Hughes

Councillor Llewelyn Owen

Councillor William Owen

Councillor G. Pritchard

Councillor J. Mathias

Councillor D.H. Rowlands

Councillor Elias Jones

Medical Officer of Health:-

Dr. G.H.B. Roberts, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
L.M.

Sanitary Inspector:-

A. Healy.

---

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee,  
Amlwch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the Health of your District for the year 1951.

In my report to you upon 1950 I suggested that the three major occurrences of that year concerned - firstly, the progress towards finalisation of the Main Sewerage scheme; secondly, the Water Mains-laying Scheme being carried out by the County Water Authority; and lastly, the erection of premises for a large industrial concern.

It is most gratifying to have to report that the Mains Sewerage Scheme was Officially Inaugurated by the Chairman of the Council on the 5th of October of the year under review. This was, of course, a major advancement by the Council towards ensuring that every private and business premises, within the urban area, could be provided with an overdue disposal system; - a step in which those responsible for initiating and carrying through the project can feel some pride of achievement,

A reference was made to the fact that a small Community with a rateable value of about £11,000 would find the financial burden of a House Connection Scheme a matter of extreme difficulty, if an appreciable Grant were not available. The prospects of such a Grant do not appear any more promising, as yet, and therefore, the full benefit of the Sewerage Scheme as a whole appears more remote than the community deserves. The County Water mains have not reached the township as yet or they might have obviated the serious difficulties and dislocations that arose during the summer when the Bull Bay Bore-Hole water supply source came near to complete failure at a time that the summer Holiday Industry was at its height. This failure after so many years of more or less regular but inadequate water supply was as unexpected and, apparently unpredictable, as it was inconvenient, and potentially dangerous in its consequences. The only other wells in the area are, of course, of the shallow type and, therefore, not only liable to contamination but, by testing, have been shown to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory as a community source of supply.

In recent years, with changes in the national economic social pattern, and also with a tendency towards greater mobility in holiday habits, it follows that larger numbers of people than ever before have passed their summer vacation within the county, or have made round the island excursions from without. The northern coastline of Anglesey is receiving at least its share in tourist visitations. This Town, being the largest shopping centre of that coastline, is automatically the chief food provisioning and catering centre for the extent of that sea board, and for an inland depth of about 7 miles. Such a centre should not be encumbered by sewerage and water difficulties that would militate against the encouragement, and enforcement, of clean food handling precautions designed to minimise the risk of those outbreaks of food borne disease, as have, in practice, arisen in holiday resorts in the past.

The Gwaith Hills (renamed Craig y Don) Housing Scheme has progressed towards its ultimate target of 92 houses (23 houses in the first two years) to the extent that by 31st December 1951, eight houses were actually or on the point of becoming occupied, and in the preceding 12 months 20 had been started. No doubt, until the currently accepted final figure is reached, the Council will be constantly aware of the necessity for keeping the house building progress, at least, up to schedule; - for, as I tried to indicate in my last Annual Report to you, the number of overcrowded and/or substandard houses when assessed in relation to Schedule Five of the Housing Act of 1936, would certainly be found to exceed the present Council House target, if - or when, the Minister made a Housing Survey Order under the, at present permissive, Section 57 of the Act. The ageing of house property parallels increasing deterioration unless variation in labour and material costs, coupled with Rent Restriction alteration, produces some reasonable incentive for any willing landlord to put his property in order, unless, of course, the general design and layout is quite out-moded. Rehousing is a great burden to a small community of no great affluence. Nevertheless, to the occupant of a bad house, no matter what the cause of his plight, the effect is liable to be physical and psychological, both upon himself and upon his children - the next generation. It is well to realise that, in addition to substandard houses, there are probably more than a few properties that are fit for demolition - irrespective of the present availability of alternative suitable accommodation. This housing problem, in essence so nationwide, - should be considered by the Island's Sanitary Authorities against the recent decision (dictated by Maternity Hospital bed shortage) that in future it would seem almost certain that the expectant mother's second, third and fourth child will have to be delivered at home (special medical considerations apart). It has been widely believed in the past, that the Infant Mortality Rate of an area is the most sensitive available index with which to assess the living and social conditions of a population. (This applies more markedly in the larger urban populations, but applies in principle, and in fact, to urban and rural populations of any size). Or in other words, until the various social services administered by the Local Health Authorities commenced to distort (beneficially) the Infant Mortality Rate as an Index of well being, it used to be accepted that there was a fairly strong parallel between bad houses and infant deaths. The Social Services which, of course, include Ante-natal and Post-natal observation, and Nursing, Infant Welfare Clinics, Home Help Services etc., are amongst those entirely administered by the County Council and described in detail by the County Medical Officer in his recent very comprehensive report.

The General Hospital Services for the town are provided by the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey and also by the Stanley Hospitals, - whilst the Gors and the County Hospital at Bangor provide the maternity Services. Venereal Disease Treatment is organised on a Regional Basis.

Public Health Laboratory Services are provided at the premises in Conway conducted by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, - whence food samples are sent for culture either directly by the Food & Drugs County Authority or indirectly in the case of Ice Cream by the Council's Sanitary Inspector. During the year 1951 six Ice Cream samples were taken as compared with nil in 1950 - of these six, two were graded (one adversely) and four were cultured and found free from infection.

In view of the increasingly nation wide popularity and, availability of ice cream and of its real dangers as a source of typhoid and other infections, it is intended that in future sampling will be considerably increased. All premises selling ice cream should of course be licensed, whether the product is sold unwrapped or pre-packed. Only one manufacture of ice cream is reported in this area.

It is, of course, an accepted principle that today there are, apart from the economic factor, three main continuing controlling factors that aim at producing a physically and mentally healthy citizen. They are:- firstly, the beneficial or adverse effect of parental interest and discipline (sometimes badly lacking because of supposed delegation of responsibility);- secondly, general environmental (which is the charge of the Local Sanitary Authority):- and thirdly, what may be termed the more Medical Preventative and curative factor which is the concern of the Local Health Authority and the Medical Services branch of the Education Authority. As your District Medical Officer of Health is also by appointment, Assistant to these two Bodies through the County Medical Officer who is also the County School Medical Officer, it may not be amiss to refer briefly to this third controlling factor.

In their order of preventative and curative time of influence the components of this factor are as follows:- Ante-natal care (in Clinics) of the unborn through the expectant mother. Domiciliary delivery or Hospitalisation. Care at home by the District Nurse until the fourteenth day. Supervision by the Health Visitor, directly, and through the Infant Welfare Centre where - apart from other matters, - protection against such fevers as small pox and diphtheria are offered. This period terminates on school entry at the age of five years. Supervision throughout the school career by the School Nurse who is usually the Health Visitor and thereby preserves a valuable continuity. Medical Inspection on school entry and at regular intervals, or as often as the child's condition warrants.

The vital statistics for the year call for no particular comment beyond the fact that for, at least, the second year in succession no deaths from Tuberculosis were recorded. Nor were there any Maternal Deaths.

There has been no recurrence of Acute Infantile Paralysis.

Apart from seven notifications, each of Scarlet Fever and of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, there was an outbreak amongst juveniles of Measles producing 164 notifications, and also of Whooping Cough amongst 31 children. The tuberculosis Physician reports that at the end of the year 34 cases stood in his Register, but of course, this figure is applied to a total catchment period of some years' duration, in view of the fact that following upon a patient's primary notification he will remain under observation over several years depending upon the earliness of the diagnosis, the severity of the disease, and the co-operation of the patient. The Miniature Mass Chest Radiography unit used Amulch as one of its centres of operation, and consequently the child and adult population of the town had the opportunity of being examined if they so desired. It is not known how many townspeople were examined.

I repeat my observation of last year, to the effect that as is customary, Rates of Incidence of occurrences are quoted in



this report, but are less reliable than when applied to large populations, because small fluctuations in actual numbers may produce wide changes in the rates of small communities.

In conclusion, I should, yet again, like to thank the Chairman and Members for their interest, and the Clerk and Officers of the Council for their willing co-operation and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G.H.B.Roberts

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres...	...	...	...	4,062
Population (Registrar General's mid 1951 Estimate.)				2,774
"	"	"	" 1951 "	2,562
Rateable Value (on 31.3.51)	...	...		£11,875
Sum represented by a Penny Rate...		...		£47
Number of Rateable Premises	...	...		2,000

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births (Actual Occurrences).

	<u>1950</u>			<u>1951</u>		
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	25	14	39	23	16	39
Illegitimate	2	1	3	4	2	6
	<u>27</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>

The Birth Comparability factor is 1.01

### Birth Rates (Total)

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Amlwch	15.5 (Corrected)	16.38 (Corrected)
England & Wales	15.8	15.5

### Stillbirths.

Nil.

### Deaths.

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
17	29	46
<u>17</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>46</u>

The Death Comparability Factor is 0.77.

The Crude death rate per 1,000 population is 16.6.  
 Corrected figure = 12.76. (1950 = 12.2)  
 England and Wales = 12.5 (1950 = 11.6)

# Deaths Under One Year of Age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 111.1  
 England and Wales = 29.6.  
 Wales and Monmouthshire = 35.5.

# Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 66.66  
 England and Wales = 18.8 (1950 = Nil)

# Maternal Deaths.

Nil.

# CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	M	F
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	1	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	1	1
Diabetes ...	0	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	11
Coronary disease, angina ...	1	2
Other heart disease ...	2	5
Other Circulatory disease ...	0	1
Influenza ...	3	2
Pneumonia ...	0	1
Bronchitis ...	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate. ...	2	0
Congenital malformations ...	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	2	2
Accidents ...	1	0
Suicide ...	0	1
TOTAL	17	29



There were no deaths reported as from tuberculosis.

## Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

### Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis).

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in age group

Disease	1-4yrs	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-44	45-64	65 & over.
Scarlet Fever	2	3	-	-	2	-	-
Measles	80	83	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	23	7	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	3	1	2

### Tuberculosis.

One case was notified.

### Vaccination and Immunisation.

These protections against respectively smallpox and diphtheria in infancy, are mostly carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic (run by the County Health Authority) although, of course, parents are at liberty to have their children protected privately when they so desire. Immunisation against diphtheria from age of 5 years onward is the charge of the School Medical Service, but of course, depends largely upon (amongst other factors) the consent and cooperation of the individual parents. The fact that this District has suffered no case of diphtheria during 1951 should in no way soothe the parental mind into negligence.

This remark is of even greater import in relation to smallpox vaccination, owing to the incidence of home coming seafarers from smallpox infected ports overseas.

#### No of Immunisations carried out.

0 - 4 yrs.			5 - 15 yrs.			TOTAL.		
Popula- tion	No. Immun- ised	%	Popula- tion.	No. Immun- ised	%	Popula- tion	No. Immun- ised.	%
211	125	59.2	432	425	98.4	643	550	85.6

This percentage is the second highest of the County's eight Sanitary districts.

## VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Total 32 of which 23 were primary vaccinations.  
These figures represent an appreciable fall from the 1950  
respective figures of 65 and 64.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	9	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	9	-	-

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

### General Nuisances.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	190
No. of visits made	...	...	...	190
No. of revisits made	...	...	...	326
No. of nuisances found	...	...	...	215
No. of Informal Notices served...	...	...	...	10
No. of Statutory Notices served..	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Nuisances Abated by Informal Action	...	...	...	215

### Housing Act 1936.

No. of premises Inspected	...	...	...	19
No. of premises in which families rehoused	...	...	...	8
No. of new houses completed	...	...	...	8
No. of new houses under construction	...	...	...	20
New houses contemplated but not yet commenced	...	...	...	64
No. of notices served under Section 11	...	...	...	3
No. of notices served under Section 12	...	...	...	1
No. of applicants on Council's Housing List	...	...	...	131

## Housing Act 1936 (continued).

Progress on the first stage of the Gwaith Hills Site reached a point where the Council were able to rehouse 8 families. This offered an opportunity of taking necessary action in respect of four premises ~~vacated~~ and requisite notices were served under Sections 11 and 12 of the Act.

Whilst no decision has yet been made, owners have the chance of submitting their proposals under Section 11 of their intentions to make the houses fit.

A closing order under Section 12 related to part of a building used as a house and in this instance permission may be granted to use these premises for any purpose other than human habitation.

No definite policy of Slum Clearance can yet be followed owing to the lack of new houses and the district does contain many substandard houses which call for treatment at the earliest opportunity.

The list of applicants for new houses on the surface would appear formidable, but many of these applicants are living in fairly good houses which could be brought into first class condition with an expenditure of £300/£400. Whilst the Housing Act 1949 allows grants for improvements it does not make any provision for the most essential need of all, namely, general repairs, and very few owners of these properties are in the financial position to bring their houses up to reasonable standards. Until this problem of the older house is recognised as a task of national importance, rather than a private or local matter, there can be no real solution to the housing problem.

## Sewers and Drainage.

The main sewerage scheme of the Council was completed in November and whilst a general conversion scheme of house connections was drawn up by the Council's Consultant Engineers, this work has not been commenced. The difficulty confronting the Council in this matter, is the financial outlay involved and the necessity of bearing 50% of the cost under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936. Substantial help from the appropriate authorities is essential if the scheme is to be pursued to its successful completion and unless this help is forthcoming the Council's policy of modernising their district may be lost to the community for many more years to come. Suffice it perhaps to say that with a General Rate of 30/- in the £ it is virtually impossible for this Council to execute such a project from their anticipated revenue.

During the year the Amlwch Primary School, Penycelyn Housing Estate of 38 houses, the Town Public Conveniences, and several individual properties were converted to the main sewerage system. Arising from this 62 Pail Closets were abolished.

Many enquiries have been received in respect of conversions, but very few of these have been pursued on ascertaining that no grant assistance was yet available.

## Water.

Whilst some steps were taken in the early part of the year, to enforce the provision of proper piped supplies into various premises, the task had to be abandoned owing to the considerable drop in output from the Bull Bay Borehole. Briefly the supply fell from a pumping capacity of 44,000 gallons in ten hours to 36,000 gallons in 24 hours and this deterioration continued throughout the summer months until it fell below the 20,000 gallon limit in 24 hours.

The main supplies to the Contractors at the Camp and Construction Sites were terminated forthwith as an economic measure and the general public were advised to use all the care possible.

Arising from this the Anglesey County Council as the Undertakers decided to press forward with the Bodafon-Amlwch mains extension, and this work was given out to Contract during the Autumn, with an anticipated termination date of late Autumn 1952. This measure will not be in time for the summer period of 1952 but no doubt, schemes will be instituted, to keep the hardship to the minimum possible.

During the year and in spite of the difficulties, 50 water connections were made. The County Water Engineer instituted a system of priority, so that invalids and aged persons desirous of a supply were accommodated as soon as possible, this system will continue, pending a constant supply.

In these circumstances it will be appreciated why a general system of enforcement under the appropriate Acts has been withheld by my Office.

There are 17 shallow wells serving the rural areas of the district and these all receive attention at various times of the year. Samples are taken from time to time but it is only during periods of drought when good returns are received.

Applications have been made for mains extensions from the Pencae and Penrhyd areas, but to date the Anglesey County Council have not been able to consider these partly on the grounds of expense and calls from more densely populated districts. No doubt, in time, these matters will all be attended to and remedied, but in a scheme of this magnitude, it is difficult to deviate from the original course as set or chaos would result.

## Disinfections - Disinfestation.

Four disinfections were made during the year after cases of Tuberculosis and Scarlet Fever.

Disinfection was offered in two other instances but refused.

This work is carried out with Formalin Lamps. When necessary bedding requiring treatment can be sent to Llangefni for Steam treatment. No calls have been made on this service during the year.



No calls have been made on the Department with respect to the eradication of Bed Bugs, Fleas or Lice. Whilst it may not be generally known by the Public, they can call on the Department for advice and help in these matters. A small spray and supply of Insecticide is to be acquired for these purposes.

Some complaints were received in respect of Cockroach Infestations. These were treated with considerable success by means of Gammexane.

### Refuse Disposal.

Domestic Refuse is collected daily on 4 days per week, usually in the mornings. Night soil is collected between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. between Monday and Fridays.

During the year the service has reached a point where one extra day must now be given. This has been caused by a large Construction Camp and Factory Site, extra temporary dwellings and more calls from the remote rural areas of the district.

The whole of the built up areas receive a weekly service, some rural parts a bi-weekly and others a monthly service.

The general policy of the Department is to clear any accumulation of domestic refuse once, then if any accumulation occurs after, to charge for the same.

A semi controlled system of tipping is exercised at the refuse tip.

### Camps-Caravans-Temporary dwellings.

During the year a large camp was constructed at Llwyn-Onn for the purpose of Factory Buildings Operations. This has a potential capacity of 500 persons but can be increased to 1250 persons if necessary. The Camp is exceptionally well run under the care of a Camp Commandant and no action has been necessary at anytime from the Department. Frequent visits are made. The Camp is entirely self contained, with all main Sanitary facilities.

Six Terrapin Mobile Houses were erected on a site adjacent to the Council's Housing Estate at Penycefn. These are self contained with all facilities and readily removable within six hours.

Some caravans have come into the district by reason of the Factory operations but the plans when submitted have had time limits fixed. While an influx of moveable dwellings is not at anytime desirable, the exceptional operations proceeding in the district has strained normal living accommodation.

### Offices.

Temporary Offices have been erected during the year on behalf of the Associated Ethyl Co. and Messrs Marples Ridgway and Partners, the Promoters and Builders of the Factory, respectively. These buildings conform in every way with existing legislation under Section 46 of the Public Health Act. It has not been necessary to take any action in any respect whatsoever.

### Factory - Bakehouses.

No action was necessary during the year under review with respect to the 3 Bakehouses, 3 Tobacco works, Paint Works and 3 Garages. The general standards are reasonably good.

### Farms - Cowsheds.

Two farms were visited in connection with milk sampling after Abortus Fever and Tuberculosis.

Twenty-seven samples were taken during the year for Bacterial Analysis returns of which are as follows:-

- 1 Positive Brucella Abortus.
- 13 Negative, Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus.
- 13 Void (Guinea pigs died of current infections).
- 11 Samples were taken to ascertain general cleanliness standards. Three of these failed the requisite test.

Acknowledgements are herewith recorded, in respect of the valuable help, rendered to the Department, by the County Sampling Officer.

### Food and Drugs.

Fifty-five Routine visits were made to shops of various types during the year. Generally, the standard of cleanliness maintained, was extremely good in that it was only necessary on one occasion to ask for some cleansing to be done.

A very high standard is also maintained by the local Meat Purveyors and occasional checks are made on the quality of meat delivered from the Central Slaughterhouse at Llangefni. On two occasions it was necessary to condemn meat delivered, quantity and condition herewith.

- 133 lbs. Beef (Oedema)
- 106 lbs. Beef (Bone Taint).

The standard of food sent into the district is average but some trouble was experienced with Continental Hams. This, of course, is parallel with other districts throughout the Country and it would appear to develop from poor Canning methods, rather than from any attempt to pass on inferior quality products.

Articles of food condemned are listed herewith:-

- 20 cans Ham
- 48 " Milks
- 9 " Veal/Luncheon Meat
- 24 " Sardines
- 99 " Fruits (assorted types)
- 80 " Vegetables " "
- 20 " Soups " "
- 6 " Salmon
- 13 " Pork Brawn
- 72 " Fishcakes



Eight samples of Ice Cream were taken and these with one exception proved of good quality. Certain advices were tendered to the Vendor of the sample returned as Grade 4 and it is hoped that considerable improvement in this way be evident for the 1952 season.

One licensed premises has been rehabilitated to a point where it conforms with all existing regulations appertaining to such, six others are under consideration, and in some instances plans have been passed.

#### Rodent Control.

This work is carried out on a part-time basis by a member of the Council's external staff. On receipt of a complaint the Operator investigates forthwith and proceeds to treat the premises along the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In between complaints a certain amount of block control investigations are made. The system works quite satisfactorily.

I am Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. Healy,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

